

Application No. 09/700,474
Amendment Dated: December 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: September 30, 2004

MAT-8048US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft. It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are now allowable for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant's claim 1 relates to a method of creating partitions in a removable device. Communicating occurs in order to request an allocation of drive letters to the removable device. A maximum number of partitions that can be allocated in the removable media is stored. Areas corresponding to the maximum number of partitions are reserved within an area of the operating system. Drive letters are allocated to media based on the number of areas reserved.

Applicant's invention includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by Microsoft, namely:

... each of said areas including information which indicates whether a respective partition exists on said removable media ...

This feature is supported by the originally filed application at page 8, line 21. No new matter has been added. Microsoft completely lacks any disclosure of internal work areas in which information is stored indicating whether respective partitions exist. As this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Microsoft, claim 1 is patentable over Microsoft.

Claims 2-8 include all the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Thus, claims 2-8 are also patentable over the art of record.

Claim 9 is newly added. This claim is supported by the originally filed application at page 3, lines 21-22. This claim recites that the removable media is recognized as a plurality of drives regardless of whether or not the removable media is loaded in the removable device. As this feature is also neither disclosed nor suggested by Microsoft, claim 9 is patentable over Microsoft.

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In view of the amendments and argument set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia


Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicant

LEA/mjc/ds

Dated: December 29, 2004

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

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December 29, 2004


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